Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claim 1, 17, 20 and 21 as shown below.

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A method of using a dynamic computing environment ("DCE") for a plurality of phases in a software lifecycle, the method comprising:

configuring the dynamic computing environment for a first phase in the plurality
of phases, wherein said configuring comprises

allocating a first subnet,

allocating a first computing device coupled to the first subnet,

allocating a first storage device coupled to the first computing device, and

storing a first set of instructions on the first storage device;

using the configured dynamic computing environment in the first phase;

deallocating one or more of the first subnet, the first computing device, and the
first storage device;

configuring the dynamic computing environment for a second phase in the
plurality of phases, wherein said configuring comprises

allocating a second subnet **subsequent to said deallocating the first
subnet**,

allocating a second computing device coupled to the second subnet
subsequent to said deallocating the first computing device,

allocating a second storage device coupled to the second computing device
subsequent to said deallocating the first storage device, and

storing a second set of instructions on the second storage device
subsequent to said deallocating the first storage device; and

using the configured dynamic computing environment in the second phase.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of phases
comprise a development phase.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein using the configured dynamic computing environment comprises:

using the configured DCE for a first task; and

using the configured DCE simultaneously with the first task for a second task.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of phases comprise an integration phase.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein using the configured dynamic computing environment for an integration phase comprises:

executing the first set of instructions on the first computing device, wherein

the first set of instructions causes a first set of information to be

transmitted to a third computing device coupled to the first subnet;

in response to the first set of information, executing a third set of instructions on

the third computing device; and

monitoring said executing the first and third set of instructions and a result of said

executing the third set of instructions.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of phases comprise a testing phase.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

if said using the configured DCE in the first phase results in an error, re-

provisioning a clean environment in the configured DCE during the testing

phase.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of phases comprises:

a beta testing phase, wherein

a first user performs said using the configured DCE in the first phase, and

a second user performs said using the configured DCE in the second

phase.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein during the beta testing phase,

> said configuring the DCE comprises the first user installing the first set of instructions on the DCE, and

> said using the configured DCE comprises the first user beta testing the first set of instructions using the DCE.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of phases comprise a staging phase.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein

> configuring the dynamic computing environment comprises installing a new version of the first set of instructions, and

> using the configured dynamic computing environment comprises enabling access for at least one user to the new version of the first set of instructions.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of phases comprise a deployment phase.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein using the configured dynamic computing environment comprises:

> testing the first set of instructions; and

> updating the first set of instructions if updates are required.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software lifecycle comprises a shrink-wrap lifecycle.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software lifecycle comprises a web site lifecycle.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the software lifecycle comprises an ASP lifecycle.

17.   (**Currently Amended**) A method comprising:

(a) sending a command to a DCE to allocate resources for a phase in a software

lifecycle, wherein

the resources include a subnet, a computing device, a storage device, and

software;

(b) configuring the DCE with the resources for the phase, wherein

said configuring comprises

coupling the subnet and the computing device,

coupling the computing device and the storage device, and

installing the software on the storage device;

(c) performing the phase using the configured DCE;

(d) de-allocating the resources upon completion of performance of the phase; and

(e) repeating steps (a) – (d) for each of a plurality of phases in the software

lifecycle **subsequent to said de-allocating the resources**.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein

the plurality of phases comprise at least one of a development stage, integration

stage, testing stage, beta testing stage, beta deployment stage, and

deployment stage.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein

the software lifecycle comprises at least one of a web site lifecycle, an application

service provider lifecycle, and a shrink-wrap lifecycle.

20.   (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus comprising:

a dynamic computing environment ("DCE"), wherein

the DCE comprises a virtual subnet and a plurality of virtual computing

devices;

instructions for configuring the dynamic computing environment for a first phase

in the plurality of phases, the instructions comprising

instructions for allocating a first network resource to the virtual subnet,

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instructions for allocating a first computing device to the plurality of

virtual computing devices and coupling the first computing device

to the first network resource,

instructions for allocating a first storage device to the plurality of virtual

computing devices and coupling the first storage device to the first

computing device, and

instructions for storing a first software on the first storage device;

instructions for using the configured dynamic computing environment in the first

phase;

instructions for de-allocating one or more of the first network resource, the first

computing device, and the first storage device;

instructions for configuring the dynamic computing environment for a second

phase in the plurality of phases, the instructions comprising

instructions for allocating a second network resource to the virtual subnet

subsequent to said de-allocating the first network resource,

instructions for allocating a second computing device to the plurality of

virtual computing devices and coupling the second computing

device to the second network resource **subsequent to said de-**

allocating the first computing device,

instructions for allocating a second storage device to the plurality of

virtual computing devices and coupling the second storage device

to the second computing device **subsequent to said de-allocating**

the first storage device, and

instructions for storing a second software on the second storage device

subsequent to said de-allocating the first storage device; and

instructions for using the configured dynamic computing environment in the

second phase.

21.   **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:

(a) instructions for sending a command to a DCE to allocate resources for a phase

in a software lifecycle, wherein

the resources include a subnet, a computing device, a storage device, and

software;

(b) instructions for configuring the DCE with the resources for the phase,

wherein

said configuring comprises

coupling the subnet and the computing device,

coupling the computing device and the storage device, and

installing the software on the storage device;

(c) instructions for performing the phase using the configured DCE;

(d) instructions for de-allocating the resources upon completion of performance

of the phase; and

(e) instructions for repeating **instructions** ~~steps~~ (a) – (d) for each of a plurality of

phases in the software lifecycle **subsequent to de-allocating the**

resources.